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BENTON COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

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NEWS RELEASE

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Yakima River sees increased stream flow

Richland, Wash.: Benton County Emergency Services, along with county law and fire agencies, want to remind residents living along the Yakima River to monitor water levels in their areas. The recent rains and warm temperatures have caused swollen creeks and streams that flow into the Yakima River upstream from our location. As a result, water levels in the Yakima River as measured near Benton City have risen significantly.

Although river levels are well below actual flood stage, there is likely to be some localized flooding in low-lying areas of Benton City, West Richland, and Richland. Those areas see localized flooding nearly every spring as the river rises.

Livestock can be very vulnerable to the effects of localized flooding. Several instances have occurred in the past in which horses and cattle have been stranded due to water running through a pasture. Livestock owners should always have plans in place to move their herds to higher ground if flooding is imminent.

As a result of the increased stream flows, the National Weather Service issued flood warnings for portions of Yakima, Kittitas, and Klickitat counties earlier this week.

County officials will continue to monitor river levels and will advise area residents if conditions change. Up-to-date information is also available on the Benton County Emergency Services website – www.bces.wa.gov.

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